

*Maundy Thursday Sermon Outline – April 18, 2019*  
*“Obedience, Humility, Service” – Mark 14:32-42*

*Choosing the Cross, Doing the Dirty Work!*

*It is the first time in many years, we at First Presbyterian have had a Maundy Thursday service. When we last had such a meeting, it was not well attended. Now, a few different people have asked me, “are we going to have a foot washing ceremony?” No!*

*Maundy means “mandate, commandment” and immediately after Jesus washed His disciple’s feet, He said to them –*

*<sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. John 13:14*

*Why don’t we do it? Well, for us it would just be ceremony, for them it was real, needed, humble dirty work! Walking in this world meant not only sand and dirt but animal dung, feet wearing sandals were really dirty. This job was a job for the humblest servant among them! They were all BIG SHOTS! It was the thing none of them wanted to do!*

*I. Jesus’ washing His disciple’s feet was a preview of much dirtier, dirty work –*

*Jesus did not want the dirty work of the cross! This He expresses, even to His disciples –*

*<sup>33</sup> And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. <sup>34</sup> Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Mark 14:33-34 A*

*What caused our Lord such distress?*

*1. His accurate view of sin. He saw it for the horror it really was and is –*

*Sin is described in Scripture:*

*A. In terms of dog’s vomit and pig’s mire –*

*<sup>22</sup> But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.” 2 Peter 2:22*

*B. In terms of death, the tomb & snake’s poison –*

*<sup>13</sup> “Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps is under their lips”; Romans 3:13*

*C. In terms of the worst illnesses / disease –*

*<sup>5</sup> Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. <sup>6</sup> From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment. Isaiah 1:5-6*

*“Sin is the living worm, the lasting fire; Hell soon would lose its heat, could sin expire. Better sinless is hell, than to be where Heaven is, and to be found a sinner there. One sinless with infernals might do well, But sin would make of heaven a very hell. Look to thyself then, keep it out of door, Lest it get in and never leave thee more. “Fools make a mock at sin, will not believe It carries such a dagger in its sleeve; How can it be, say they, that such a thing, So full of sweetness, err should wear a sting? They know not that it is the very spell of sin, to make them laugh themselves to hell. Look to thyself, then, deal with sin no more, Lest He who saves, against thee shuts the door. ” – JOHN BUNYAN.*

*2. We typically lack such an accurate view of sin; we know sin as those who are under its spell –*

*A. Scripture speaks of the “pleasure of sin” –*

*<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, Hebrews 11:24-25*

- Yet its pleasures are temporary, “passing”*
- Its pleasures should be bothered by conscience –*

<sup>9</sup> Then those who heard *it*, being convicted by *their* conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest *even* to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. John 8:9

<sup>15</sup> who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) Romans 2:15

*B. Many sadly sear and deaden the conscience –*

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 1 Timothy 4:1-2

*C. Worse yet, the very grace of God, which is to save us from sin, can be misconstrued by our deceitful hearts a license to sin –*

<sup>20</sup> Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ...

6 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Romans 5:20 & Romans 6:1-2

*D. Sadly, many are given up to a debased mind –*

<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; Romans 1:28

Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day." (Romans 11:8 NKJ) □

*Dr. Paul Brand's Hansen's Disease patients*

*My own experience with a poor older lady*

*Our senselessness in regard to the PAIN and TERROR of sin!*

*Jesus had no such stupidity! He had a perfectly functioning spiritual nervous system!*

*E. As Christians we are called to a higher mind and given different / new hearts –*

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Philippians 2:5

<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. Ezekiel 36:26-27

*II. Jesus' dealing with our sin was the REAL DIRTY WORK that absolutely needed to be done:*

<sup>35</sup> He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. <sup>36</sup> And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You *will*."

*1. Adam and Eve's sin (disobedience) brought the curse and death –*

<sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake;

<sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:17 & 19

<sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, Genesis 3:18

*A. Adam's sin bringing in the thorns and thistles meant Jesus to destroy the curse would have to wear them –*

<sup>17</sup> And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His *head*, Mark 15:17

*B. Adam's bringing death into the world by disobedience, meant Jesus had to be obedient unto death to bring life –*

<sup>19</sup> For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8

C. *Adam & Eve's taking the forbidden fruit from the tree of the Knowledge of God and evil, meant the Tree of Life was guarded, fiercely guarded and regaining its fruit for us meant a spiritual battle for Christ –*

**<sup>24</sup> So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:24**

2. *Sin made the only Tree of Life for us, Christ's cross –*

**<sup>35</sup> He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. <sup>36</sup> And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." Mark 14:35-36**

A. *"If it were possible" It was NOT possible (our salvation) by any other means –*

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus! Robert Lowry

B. *Jesus' obedience was difficult –*

*In the Garden of Gethsemane, we see our Lord engaged in a great spiritual battle. When Mark 14:33 says He was "troubled" the Greek word ἐκθαμβέω ekthambeo means He was thrown into terror and thoroughly AMAZED! When He is described as "deeply distressed" the Greek term used there – ἀδημονέω ademoneo refers to the most intense degree of depressions! When Jesus Himself claims "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death" We know our Lord always spoke perfect truth and never used even slight exaggeration. The Greek word He used in Mark 14:34 περιλῖπος perilupos, meant Jesus was surrounded by sorrows, even overwhelmed, as if by a pack demonic wolves!*

*When Luke describes Jesus' actual prayer, he says – **44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:44 NKJ)***

*III. How does our Lord win this battle? Our Lord handles and wins this spiritual struggle, the prework before His cross, with PRAYER –*

1. *It was a humble prayer – **35 He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed (Mark 14:35 NKJ)***

2. *It was an intimate, prayer of faith – **36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. (Mark 14:36 NKJ)***

3. *It was a submissive prayer – **Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." (Mark 14:36 NKJ)***

4. *It was a persistent prayer – **44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. (Matthew 26:44 NKJ)***

5. *It was a fervent prayer – **44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:44 NKJ)***

6. *It was a lonely prayer – **37 Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? (Mark 14:37 NKJ)***

**40 And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. 41 Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. (Mark 14:40-41 NKJ)**

7. *It was an effective prayer – **43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. (Luke 22:43 NKJ)***

*All this was for us –*

IV. *Jesus knew His mission was to be “made sin” for us –*

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJ)

1. *This was Jesus’ mission from the beginning – “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21 NKJ)*

8 ... written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8 NKJ)

2. *Jesus knew this very well – 27 “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? `Father, save Me from this hour ’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. (John 12:27 NKJ)*

A. *Jesus foresaw the crucifixion and all its pains – NKJ Matthew 26:1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, 2 “You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” (Matthew 26:1-2 NKJ)*

B. *Worse yet, He surely knew as it was prophesied that His Father Whom He LOVED, Who LOVED Him would turn His face from Him – My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? (Psalm 22:1 NKJ)*

C. *Surely, as He foresaw and knew of the Satanic attack on Peter, He would know of any of the same kind of attacks on Himself – 31 And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 “But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” (Luke 22:31-32 NKJ)*

<sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. John 14:30

V. *Jesus knew and we should know the goal of His mission –*

... that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJ)

1. *We have our own dirty work to do –*

A. *Ending sin’s reign -*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. Romans 6:12

B. *Killing sin, which deserves God’s wrath -*

<sup>5</sup> Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

C. *Replace the old man (Adam) with the New Man (Christ), your old Adamic nature, with a spiritually born, spiritually empowered Christian nature -*

<sup>8</sup> But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. Colossians 3:5-10 Also requires prayer & God’s Word!

2. *Help others do the same –*

*Talk about washing feet / clean feet – How about clean souls?*

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!” Isaiah 52:7

3. *The Good News –*

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5

*Arnold Brevick*